

Message Text

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SUBJECT: VISIT OF US MAYORS DELEGATION

USIA FOR IBS PASS POLISH SERVICE, IEU, VIENNA FOR RPO

1. A DELEGATION OF US MAYORS, CONCLUDED A TWO WEEK STAY IN POLAND ON JULY 24, IMPRESSED BY POLISH HOSPITALITY AND OPTIMISTIC ABOUT FUTURE EXCHANGES AMONG POLISH AND AMERICAN MAYORS.

2. MAYORS KEENETH GIBSON, NEWARK, NJ., JOHN BELK, CHARLOTTE, NC, EDWARD ZORINSKI, OMAHA, NEBRASKA, ALEX SMETKE, ROCHESTER, MINN. AND MR JOHN GUNTHER, DIRECTOR OF THE US COUNCIL OF MAYORS(UNDER WHOSE AUSPICES THE DELEGATION TOURED POLAND), WERE BID FAREWELL AT THE AIRPORT BY AMERICAN AMBASSADOR R. T. DAVIES AND WARSAW VICE-MAYOR CZESLAW GORSKI. VICE-MAYOR GORSKI AND MAYOR GIBSON MADE TOASTS AT THE AIRPORT WITH MAYOR GIBSON THANKING THE POLISH COUNTERPARTS FOR A FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.

2. ONE OF THE ORIGINAL MEMBERS OF THE GROUP, MAYOR HARRY KINNEY OF ALBUQUERQUE RETURNED HOME EARLY.

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3. US COUNCIL OF MAYORS DIRECTOR GUNTHER DESCRIBED WITH GREAT SATISFACTION THE MEETINGS WITH MAYORS AND OFFICIALS OF WARSAW, GDANSK, WROCLAW, KATOWICE AND KRAKOW. THE AMERICAN MAYORS AND THEIR POLISH COUNTERPARTS DISCUSSED COMMON PROBLEMS OF LARGE INDUSTRIAL CITIES SUCH AS WATER AND AIR POLLUTION, TRAFFIC CONTROL AND HOUSING.

4. ROCHESTER MAYOR SMETKE, BORN IN RUDA, POLAND, LAST VISITED POLAND IN 1963. HE WAS STRUCK BY THE IMPROVEMENT IN THE ECONOMY AND THE STANDARD OF LIVING. NEWARK MAYOR GIBSON, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE US CONFERENCE OF MAYORS, NOTICED THE SIMILARITY IN PROBLEMS BETWEEN LARGE AMERICAN AND POLISH CITIES. OMAHA MAYOR ZORINSKY OBSERVED THAT MAY LARGE POLISH CITIES ARE STABILIZED BY A DEPENDENCE ON AGRICULTURE, JUST AS HIS CITY IS IN THE UNITED STATES. MAYOR, BELK OF CHARLOTTE, A LARGE TEXTILE CENTER IN AMERICAN, WAS ESPECIALLY INTERESTED IN THE POLISH TEXTILE INDUSTRY AND COMMENTED UPON THE FINE QUALITY OF POLISH SILK.

5. ONE OF THE IMPORTANT RECOMMENDATIONS, WHICH THE AMERICAN MAYORS PASSED TO THEIR POLISH COLLEAGUES WAS IN THE FIELD OF URBAN TRAFFIC: THAT THE POLISH CITIES KEEP THEIR WELL-DEVELOPED PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS. BASED ON AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, ONCE AN INDIVIDUAL GETS USED TO THE CAR, IT'S HARD TO GET HIM OUT OF IT.

6. MR. GUNTHER, WHO DIRECTS THE EXCHANGE PROGRAM, WILL EXTEND AN INVITATION TO THE MAYORS OF THE POLISH CITIES VISITED BY THE DELEGATION. MR. GUNTHER IS STRIVING FOR EXCHANGES NOT ONLY AMONG MAYORS BUT ALSO AMONG OTHER TOP CITY ADMINISTRATORS.

7. MR. GUNTHER ADDED THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME A GROUP OF AMERICAN MAYORS WILL BE VISITING CHINA THIS YEAR FROM SEPTEMBER 15-29. MAYORS OF CHINESE CITIES THEN WILL BE INVITED DURING THE VISIT THERE.

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